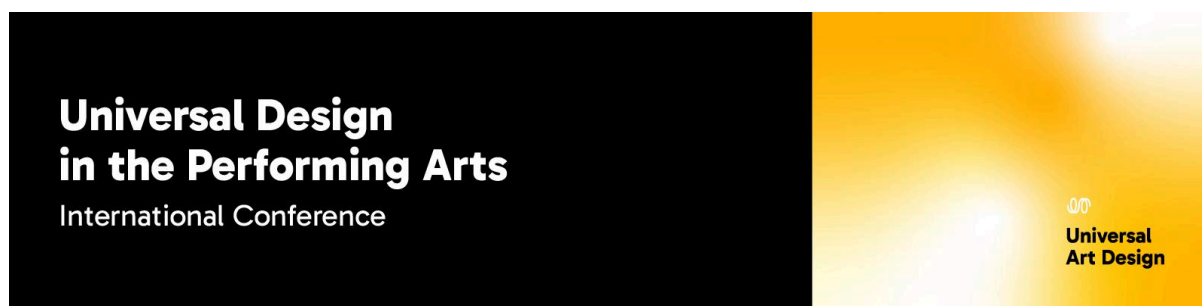


Invitation: International Conference "Universal Design in Performing Arts" | June 2-4, Toruń (Poland)



Dear People of the Theatre,

We are pleased to invite you to the international conference "**Universal Design in Performing Arts**," which will take place on **June 3-4, 2026**, in Toruń, Poland. The event serves as the final stage of the **Universal Art Design (UAD)** project, realized by the Regional Centre for Cultural Animation (WOAK) in partnership with **Teatro Stabile del Veneto** (Italy) and **Kulturanova** (Serbia).

The Universal Art Design project is co-funded by the European Union through the Creative Europe program and the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Region.

The conference explores how accessibility can be transformed from a technical requirement into an immanent part of the artistic language. We will present our **Model of Universal Design in Performing Arts**, developed through collaboration with artists from marginalized groups and artists with disabilities.

Conference Program

June 3rd, 2026 | Venue: CKK Jordanki (Chamber Hall), Toruń

- **08:30 – 09:00** | Registration
- **09:00 – 10:00** | **Conference Opening:** Presentation of the Universal Design Model in Performing Arts + Q&A session.
- **10:15 – 11:30** | **Panel I: Accessibility as a New Artistic Language.** A discussion on how tools like audio description or sign language are becoming autonomous means of artistic expression.
- **11:45 – 13:00** | **Panel II: Socially Sensitive Art.** A reflection on the ethics of cooperation, the transformation of institutions, and the reclamation of agency by marginalized groups.
- **14:00** | **"Gorgon Syndrome"** – A performance created within the UAD project framework.

- **20:00 | "The Knights of the Cross"** (dir. Jan Klata, Stefan Jaracz Theatre in Olsztyn) – A competition performance shown within the **International Theatre Festival KONTAKT**: <https://festiwal.horzyca.pl/spektakle/krzyzacy/>

June 4th, 2026

- **11:00-14:00 | Networking Brunch.** We would like to invite you for a joint brunch to get to know each other better, share our current works, and talk about our practices. We hope this will be a foundation for building lasting relationships and future collaborations.

Practical Information & Support

We are happy to offer a support package for **16 selected participants**, which includes:

- **Accommodation** in Toruń (2 nights: June 2–4).
- **Partial catering** (breakfasts, lunch and coffee breaks on the conference day + networking brunch).
- **Tickets** for the performances mentioned in the program.

Please note: Travel costs are to be covered by the participants.

How to Apply?

To join us, please fill out the registration form below. In the form, please specify if you require accommodation.

REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/WokLjvg3oLeHbc4h9>

Important Dates:

- **May 13th:** Deadline for applications.
- **May 19th:** Notification of selected participants.

Join us in Toruń to share experiences, network during the KONTAKT Festival, and build new, inclusive paths for European theatre together!

If you need more details, please contact: katarzyna.pagowska@woak.pl

Warm regards,

Katarzyna Pałowska,
deputy director of Regional Centre for Cultural Animation
www.woak.pl

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The views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.



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